

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6033

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 8520

FOR AF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, NI

SUBJECT: GARBA REQUEST FOR MEETING JULY 30 OR 31 WITH SECRETARY

REF: (A) STATE 181979 (B) LAGOS 8506

1. SUMMARY: GARBA CALLED CHARGE AFTERNOON JULY 24 TO ASK RE RESPONSE ON HIS REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH SECRETARY. SAID HE WOULD GO ANYWHERE NECESSARY FOR MEETING AND COULD MAKE IT JULY 30 OR 31. REQUEST NIACT IMMEDIATE RESPONSE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER SO WE CAN INFORM HIM AFTERNOON OF JULY 25, AS HE LEAVES LAGOS JULY 26. END SUMMARY

2. EXTAF COMMISSIONER GARBA TELEPHONED CHARGE AFTERNOON OF JULY 24 TO ASK IF THERE WERE ANY RESPONSE ON HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY. GARBA SAID HE HAD RECEIVED WGRD FROM AMBASSADOR SANU THAT PPOINTMENT WAS BEING MADE FOR HIM WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE FOR THE 30TH; HAD CHARGE HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THIS? CHARGE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED ONLY MESSAGE OF JULY 23 REPORTING THAT AMB SANU HAD REQUESTED APPOINTMENT FOR COMMISSIONER WITH SECRETARY FOR JULY 30; CHARGE HAD REPORTED COMMISSIONER'S CONVERSATION WITH HIM JULY 23 AND REQUESTED EARLY RESPONSE BUT HAD RECEIVED NOTHING YET. CHARGE TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO PUT QUESTION (PARA 2 REF A) WHETHER GARBA'S REQUEST REPRESENTED CHANGE IN FMG VIEW, AS DEPT HAD HAD IMPRESSION FMG FELT BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WOULD PROBABLY BE MORE FRUITFUL TOWARD THE END OF THE YEAR. GARBA SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHERE DEPT GOT THAT IMPRESSION; HE HAD HAD A LONG CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR EASUM BEFORE LATTER'S

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DEPARTURE FOR THE US, AND HE HAD EXPECTED SOME FEEDBACK, BUT THERE

HAD BEEN NONE. NOW, HE WANTED TO FOLLOW UP WITH EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH THE SECRETARY. GARBA ADDED THAT IF HE HAD WANTED APPOINTMENT WITH ASSTSEC SCHAUFELLE, HE WOULD HAVE ASKED FOR IT; IF APPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARY WERE NOT RPT NOT POSSIBLE, THEN HE WOULD

HAVE TO RECONSIDER. GARBA ASKED CHARGE TO SEE IF HE COULD GET A RESPONSE ON THIS BY JULY 25, AS HE WILL BE LEAVING LAGOS "FOR SOMEWHERE" JULY 26. CHARGE SAID HE WOULD RELAY MESSAGE AT ONCE AND ASKED IF JULY 30 WERE THE ONLY TIME GARBA COULD MEET WITH THE SECRETARY; WAS THERE ANY GREATER FLEXIBILITY THAN THIS? GARBA RESPONDED THAT THE MEETING COULD BE EITHER JULY 30 OR 31, AND AS HE HAD SAID, HE WAS READY TO GO ANYWHERE TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY.

3. COMMENT: GARBA WAS BREEZY AND FRIENDLY BUT PRESSED HARD. HE WILL CLEARLY GO TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS TO SEE THE SECRETARY; HE CONSIDERS HIS REQUEST AND WILLINGNESS TO TRAVEL REASONABLE, AND IF MEETING IS NOT RPT NOT POSSIBLE, I BELIEVE GARBA'S REACTION WILL BE STRONGLY NEGATIVE UNLESS VERY CONVINCING REASON IS PROVIDED TO EXPLAIN SECRETARY'S INABILITY TO SQUEEZE GARBA INTO SCHEDULE JULY 30 OR 31. I URGE THAT SECRETARY RECEIVE GARBA ON ONE OF THOSE TWO DAYS IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. ATMOSPHERE HERE AND ATTITUDES TOWARD THE US HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT WARMER IN PAST WEEK OR TWO; RESPONSE ON KISSENGER MEETING THAT GARBA MIGHT TAKE AS A REBUFF COULD BRING ON RETURN OF COLDER, HARSHER CLIMATE.

4. IN ANY EVENT, REQUEST RESPONSE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER BY NIACT IMMEDIATE SOON ENOUGH SO WE CAN INFORM GARBA DURING AFTERNOON OF JULY 25 (LAGOS TIME). EVEN IF RESPONSE IS TO EFFECT THAT DEPARTMENT CAN NOT YET SAY WHETHER MEETING WILL BE POSSIBLE, THAT WOULD BE BETTR THAN NO RESPONSE AT ALL.
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